

THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

National Intelligence Officers

8 March 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant to the DCI

SUBJECT: Lunch with Jerry Schecter and  
Strobe Talbot of Time Magazine  
on 6 March

1. Strobe Talbot was at the Council on Foreign Relations when Mr. Bush and I talked there on 23 February. He phoned me in Washington and asked if I would have lunch with Jerry Schecter and himself. Schecter had accompanied Nixon to Peking. They took me to Garibaldi's and paid the fare.

2. The two seemed to be testing their ideas about what was happening in China as part of the process of preparing an article for Time. A good deal of the conversation dealt in generalities on China and Sino-Soviet relations. They did press me on this point, "had there been a recent Sino-Soviet clash outside of Sinkiang?" I told them that clashes happened regularly along the border but that I could not confirm what they were trying to get at. It was clear from Schecter's comments that he had wind of the October incident near Manchouli and was trying to check it out.

3. They also did some fishing on Sino-US relations and US concerns about a possible improvement in Sino-Soviet relations. I acknowledged that we were, in fact, concerned about this possible improvement and were doing some in depth research on it. I also said that there had been recent problems in Sino-US relations without going into any detail. Talbot had picked up indications of these problems when he accompanied Kissinger in October 1975.

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4. Schecter did tell me that the Japanese Foreign Minister had told him recently that Kissinger said in December 1975 after the President's trip that he (HAK) had no idea about internal developments in China although he had been to China eight times and had met a number of the major leaders.

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National Intelligence Officer  
for China

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